



COMMISSION ON IMPROVING THE STATUS OF CHILDREN IN INDIANA

Report and Recommendations Regarding
House Enrolled Act 1369

January 03, 2017

Commission on Improving the Status of Children in Indiana

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I. DIRECTIVES

Under House Enrolled Act (HEA) 1369, the Commission on Improving the Status of Children in Indiana, shall not later than November 1, 2016:

- (1) study and evaluate innovative juvenile justice programs, including juvenile community corrections; and
- (2) consult with the justice reinvestment advisory council under IC 33-38-9.5 concerning how funds should be distributed for innovative juvenile justice programs and juvenile community corrections.

The commission shall submit a report, not later than December 1, 2016, regarding the commission's work required under this subsection. The report shall be submitted to the legislative council, the governor, and the chief justice of Indiana. The report to the legislative council must be in an electronic format under IC 5-14-6.

II. SUMMARY OF WORK

On April 14, 2016, the Commission on Improving the Status of Children (CISC) Executive Committee requested the Cross System Youth Task Force of the CISC and the Juvenile Justice Improvement Committee of the Judicial Conference of Indiana to work collaboratively to study and evaluate innovative juvenile justice programs, and make recommendations to the CISC on how funds should be distributed for these programs under HEA 1369. Representatives from the Juvenile Justice Improvement Committee (JJIC) and the Cross-System Youth Task force met between May 6, and November 2, 2016 to develop recommendations.

On August 2, 2016, the Justice Reinvestment Advisory Council discussed the issue of funding juvenile community corrections as raised in HEA 1369. The Advisory Council discussed current Indiana Department of Correction funding for juveniles, and whether a system like the Justice Reinvestment Advisory Council or Recovery Works should be set up for juveniles.

On October 7, 2016, the JJIC considered recommendations that permitted the use of a local juvenile community corrections board, and asked for (1) a separate line item for the \$2.2 million already being spent by DOC, and (2) funding at a level of 5% of the community corrections for adults. The JJIC voted to support the concept of the recommendations, including separate funding of community corrections for children without a reduction in adult community corrections monies.

On November 2, 2016 the Cross System Youth Task Force considered the recommendations. A consensus of the Task Force members voted to recommend (1) the Legislature commit more money to juvenile justice services, separate from adult community corrections; (2) to increase representation on community corrections boards to support juvenile justice interests, or to create a separate board by local discretion, and (3) to support evidence based practices in juvenile justice services.

On December 7, 2016 the consensus recommendations of the JJIC and Cross System Youth Task Force were presented to the CISC.

III. FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

On December 7, 2016 the CISC voted to endorse the following recommendations:

- (1) Representation on local community corrections boards should be increased to support juvenile justice interests, or grant counties the authority and discretion to establish separate juvenile community corrections boards.
- (2) Funding should be increased or new funding authorized from the Department of Correction that is specifically targeted for juvenile justice beyond the current grant funding level. Such allocations should not reduce or impair the funding of adult community corrections.
- (3) The state provide significant fiscal resources to the local juvenile courts and counties to develop and sustain innovative, evidence based juvenile justice programs including Dual Status cases.